

(5) Bridle road was abandoned just on the eastern boundary of Poopara tea owing to its swampy condition and the path found its way through the cultivated tea.

(6) The bridge at the same spot referred to above was very shaky and required a general overhaul.

(7) River crossing with huge deep holes fatal to horse, within a hundred yards near Santhampara bridge.

(8) Several other uncomfortable river crossings between Santhampara and Gudampara, all requiring lifting and repairing.

Dewan's reply.—The representation of the Member will be referred to the Chief Engineer for report.

97. Roads.

Mr. W. A. J. Milner (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) submitted that the grant-in-aid allowed at present was Rs. 187-21 chs. per mile which would have been ample but for the high rain-fall of 200 to 250 inches in the year which rendered the up-keep of the roads a difficult and expensive affair. He requested an addition of Rs. 100 per mile which would raise the total grant for 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles by Rs. 1,175.

In regard to the drainage works, the Member represented that, on account of rock-slabs on the sides of the drains, free passage of water was impeded and requested the rocky portions to be blasted so as to deepen the drains.

Coming to the Kottayam-Kumili road, it was urged that, though the progress of the repair work was satisfactory, the portion from the 54th to 57th mile and that near the 59th mile required immediate attention, the whole distance being 5 miles. With the completion of the works mentioned above, there would be a first class road between Kottayam and Kumili. The ghat section, miles 35 to 45, was, no doubt, in good order. But, in some portions, the repairs carried out were not of a permanent nature and should be finished before the monsoon. Another point which deserved attention was that, on the section between the 53rd and 60th miles, the cross and side drains required to be kept clear throughout, as otherwise the money spent on the repairs would be a waste.

Lastly, the Member requested that a commencement of the proposed cart-road from Cheenthalar to Kallar in the High Range be made, as it would open up a large area for tea cultivation and would also provide a very much shorter route from Trivandrum to the High Range.

Dewan's reply.—The representation of the Member will be considered.

Mr. Ankur Mira Rowther (Member, Nominated) complained about the absence of roads in Vandanmettu *pakuthi* for the use of the Cardamom ryots and the coolies employed in the estates. He suggested the opening of the following roads:—

- (1) A road from Cumbom to Vandanmettu.
- (2) A road from Kumili to Vandanmettu.
- (3) A road from Kombay to Udumpanshola.
- (4) A road from Thevaram to Santhampara.

He also prayed that steps might be ordered to be taken to prevent the destruction of the plantations by elephants.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.

98. Suggestions on the general administration of the State.

Mr. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Vaikom Taluk) first urged the expansion of the Legislative Council on the following lines:—

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(1) The number of members to be increased to 21 with a non-official majority of 11 made up of

- (a) five from each of the five Revenue Divisions,
- (b) three from each of the electorates of the Merchants, the Jemmis and the Planters, and
- (c) three to represent minor interests.

Of these the members from the Revenue Divisions should be elected on a statutory basis.

(2) The Council should have the power to discuss the State Budget and the non-official Members should be allowed to interpellate the Government on matters of administration and submit resolutions on measures of public utility.

The Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should also be reformed on the following lines :—

(a) The present tax-limit of Rs. 50 for membership in the Assembly should be relaxed in favour of families and communities following the system of partition.

(b) There should be two sessions of the Assembly—one during the Birthday week of His Highness the Maha Raja and the other as at present.

(c) The election of Members should take place once in three years.

(d) The representations of Members should be divided into two classes. Under the first class should be included all subjects which could be disposed of only after discussion and deliberation, while the second class of subjects should be such as could be decided at the Assembly. There should be a Committee composed of the Heads of Departments concerned and the Members to discuss and deliberate upon the first class of subjects and the Committee should, after the discussion of such subjects, be asked to submit a report. The President on receipt of such report should come to a decision and give a final reply to the representative. The second class of subjects should be disposed of by the President at the Assembly, the Members being given an opportunity to exchange views with the Departmental Heads concerned before the reply was given by the President. The present system of disposing of the Members' representations by G. O's. without consulting the Members should be changed.

(e) The plan of the President's opening address to the Members of the Assembly should be changed. It should contain a forecast of administrative measures to be taken and also a statement showing how the previous year's representations were disposed of.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(1) TOWN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES.

99. Reform and extension of local self-Government.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) said at the outset that the work of the Town Improvement Committees during the past 25 years had been satisfactory and that the capacity of the people for public work, their public spirit, etc., had been testified to by successive Dewans. The constitution of the Municipal bodies contemplated in the Municipal Bill should be made on a ten-rupee tax basis and the President should always be a non-official. The duties of such bodies should be administration of justice—both civil and criminal—(up to a certain limit) in its primitive form, the management of primary education, management of Devaswoms, certain public works affecting the locality including irrigation and